

The recitations of “a capacitive, capacitive keys”, and “an hard contact key, hard contact keys, a pointer navigating device, pointer navigating devices, a trackball, trackballs, a touch sensitive surface or touch sensitive surfaces including or not limited to a touch screen a screen or monitor display, screen...” have been separated into more exacting redrafted claims herein attached. (See, Exhibit “A”).

The limitations of “a capacitive key actuating construct, a plurality of capacitive key constructs, a plural-directional hard-contact key actuating construct, etc.” have been separated into more exacting redrafted individual claims herein attached. (See, Attachment X).

The limitation of “as below” has been omitted.

The limitation of “above” has been omitted.

9. The obviousness basis of rejection has been noted.
10. It is respectfully submitted that the Kazarian art is not a bar to patentability of the present application.

The Kazarian art and the art of this application concern different aspects of devices and for different reasons. Whereas Kazarian teaches a hand-held device which joins a plurality of inputting devices for hand held use of such devices, the art of the present invention concerns the novel improvement in inputting of such inputting devices. Whereas the Kazarian apparatus concerns the entire hands performing many functions, the present invention concerns finger inputting on module devices to improve efficiencies for the user in inputting data and controls.

However, if Kazarian may be seen as precedent, the following is submitted to illustrate what specifically can be said to be improvements of Kazarian:

Kazarian teaches a hand-held apparatus and method for inputting data including controls to a computer. More specifically Kazarian teaches an inputting device (68) comprising of a

trackball or a pointer navigating device (68a) surrounded by a plurality of hard-contact keys (68b) (See figure 1 and column 6, lines 31-35) and touch tablet (See figure 1 and column 6, lines 35-49) which may be one of a plurality of inputting devices in two holder hand-held apparatus. That Mathews teaches an input device having a capacitive key (See figures 2 and 3) and makes it obvious to modify Kazarian to include capacitive keys.

The Key-Surround Inputting Device (KSM) offers improvements to the inputting apparatus of Kazarian concerning the way said inputting device comprising of trackball or pointer navigating device surrounded by a plurality of hard contact or capacitive keys is used with the standard keyboard inputting device. The KSM also makes improvements to said navigating device which are consequential to its use in inputting on the KSM device.

Kazarian teaches that a standard keyboard can be attached to said apparatus coupling with said navigating key with surrounding keys. Additionally, the Kazarian inputting apparatus is made to be "held in free space" with the use of holders. With such an apparatus it would be difficult for the user to simultaneously input on a standard keyboard and said navigating device with both hands while also having to hold the apparatus. The KSM inputting device is meant to be placed on a surface so that the user's hands rest upon it. The KSM inputting device need not be supported by the user. Hence, the user may move one hand and make use of said navigating key with surrounding keys and continue standard keyboard inputting without difficulty. The KSM offers an improvement in the use of said navigation device with surrounding keys of said prior art.

Secondly, the KSM improvements concern said trackball or pointer navigating device surrounded by a plurality of hard contact or capacitive keys of said prior art for use in inputting with the KSM inputting device. With the KSM, capacitive keys, hard-contact keys and key-arrangement key surround keys need not completely surround a center key and is a function of the

KSM improving the use and method of inputting on the conventional keyboard so as to increase efficiency for the user. For the same reasons extensions of size, shape and/or texture of each of the above said surrounding keys of said navigating key allows improved access with regard to conventional imputing practices on the standard keyboard. Additionally, the key-surround module inputting device application discloses the novel floating plural direction pivotable key-surround key which may surround such center trackball, touch tablet or other pointer navigating device as well as any other key or keys.

With regard to the navigating device with surrounding key of the Kazarian apparatus, the KSM provides for a different use of said prior art key with the standard keyboard and thereby offers an improvement of the entire prior art apparatus. Additionally, the KSM device makes improvements to the navigating device with surrounding keys of the prior art in several ways.

11. It is respectfully submitted that the Engel art is not a bar to patentability of claims disclosing motorized keys.

Engel et al teaches an input device having a motor whereas said motor controls components which control the actuation signals of a trackball. The KSM improvement concerns providing for the motion of the physical KSM keys and parts thereof on the keyboard surface with the use of a computer and motors. The indications of actuation of the KSM inputting device are to be made manually by the user and without intervention of any motor.

However, if Engel et al may be seen as precedent, the following is submitted to illustrate what specifically can be said to be KSM inputting device improvements of the apparatus of Engel et al:

Whereas the Engel et al apparatus moves one aspect of an inputting device, namely the actuating feature, the KSM offers the improvement of the ability to move the inputting keys